



**Curriculum of the Orthopaedic Division of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association  
Diploma of Advanced Orthopaedic Manual and Manipulative Physiotherapy  
Level 4**

**Course hours:** 35 hours completed over 5 days

**Purpose:** To teach the treatment of spinal, pelvic and costal joint dysfunction safely and effectively by manipulation\*. An emphasis is placed on clinical reasoning and indications/contraindications of these treatment techniques.

**\*Manipulation** is a skillful high velocity, low amplitude thrust movement of a joint beyond its physiological limit, but within anatomical limits with the purpose of restoring movement and function.

**Objectives:** At the completion of this course, the student will demonstrate competency in:

- Analyzing examination data to establish indications/contraindications for the use of manipulation techniques for the spine, pelvis and costal joints
- Understanding the theory of spinal joint fixation and manipulation techniques
- Integrating principles and practical application of safe and effective manipulative procedures within a treatment regime for correction of spinal, pelvis and costal dysfunction
- Identifying indications and contraindications for all techniques and evaluating treatment effectiveness, making changes to progress or modify as appropriate
- Understanding evidence based practice in theory and practical application of assessment and treatment techniques as discussed

**Syllabus/Topics Covered:**

- Articular and muscular anatomy and both normal and abnormal biomechanics in the upper and lower quadrants including neurovascular anatomy and related neurological function and testing
- Clinical reasoning in the process of assimilating data to develop hypotheses, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment planning considering theories of joint fixation, conditions of vertebrobasilar insufficiency, and craniovertebral instability
- Philosophy of treatment, indication and contraindications to manipulative treatment.
- Instruction in manipulative techniques for each mobile segment of the spine: craniovertebral, cervical, cervicothoracic junction, thoracic, lumbar, pelvic and costal areas
- Integration of the manipulative techniques into total treatment programs
- Principles of scientific inquiry, critical reading of research and current issues in physiotherapy including the development of manipulative techniques and the relevance of other disciplines utilizing similar techniques